

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 DHA-02 IO-13 CU-02 BIB-01
ACDA-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
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P R 191340Z APR 77
FM AMCONSUL MUNICH
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8349
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

C O N F I D E N T I A L MUNICH 1115

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CSCE, SHUM, PINT, RO
SUBJECT: ROMANIAN DISSIDENTS: BAPTISTS

REF: BUCHAREST 2803

1. DPA, AP, REUTER AND KNA ITEMS DATED LINED ZURICH REPORT THAT SIX ROMANIAN BELIEVERS WERE ARRESTED IN CONNECTION WITH RFE BROADCAST OF "APRIL 3 OR EARLIER" OF ROMANIAN BAPTIST DISSIDENT TON'S DOCUMENT (REFTEL). ITEMS INDICATE THAT ARRESTS TOOK PLACE APRIL 3 AFTER RFE HAD BROADCAST 28 PAGE DOCUMENT CONTAINING DETAILS OF ABOUT 100 CASES OF RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION IN ROMANIA. SOURCE OF THIS INFORMATION IS ZURICH-BASED ORGANIZATION "GLAUBE IN DER ZWEITEN WELT" (RELIGION IN THE SECOND WORLD), WHICH IS SAID TO HAVE ACQUIRED INFORMATION FROM SOURCES IN ROMANIA.

2. FOR PRESENT, RFE BROADCASTS ARE NOT REPEAT NOT MENTIONING ALLEGED CONNECTION BETWEEN THESE ARRESTS AND RFE BROADCAST OF TON'S DOCUMENT APRIL 2. RFE MANAGEMENT NOTES THAT ALL ITEMS COME FROM ZURICH AND SEEM TO BE BASED ON A SINGLE SOURCE. MANAGEMENT DOES NOT REPEAT NOT WANT TO BROADCAST POSSIBLY ERRONEOUS INFORMATION ON THIS SENSITIVE POINT.

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3. "WASHINGTON POST" HAS ASKED RFE/RL HEADQUARTERS IN WASHINGTON TO COMMENT ON INFORMATION "GLAUBE IN DER ZWEITEN WELT" HAS DISSEMINATED ABOUT THE SIX. RFE/RL MANAGEMENT HERE WILL RECOMMEND THAT RFE/RL HEADQUARTERS ACKNOWLEDGE FACT THAT RFE BROADCAST TON'S DOCUMENT.

4. BEGIN FYI: RFE MANAGEMENT HAS ADVISED CONGEN THAT ON APRIL 7 YOUNG ENGLISHMAN RESIDENT IN SALZBURG INFORMED RFE HE HAD JUST RECEIVED TELEPHONE CALL FROM ROMANIA REPORTING THAT THE SIX HAD BEEN RELEASED FROM DETENTION AND DID NOT REPEAT NOT WANT RFE TO BROADCAST ANYTHING FURTHER ABOUT THEIR ACTIVITIES. RFE HAS COMPLIED WITH THIS REQUEST. END FYI.

5. RFE MANAGEMENT'S DECISION TO BROADCAST TON'S DOCUMENT WAS IN NO REPEAT NO WAY UNUSUAL. THE DOCUMENT WAS IN PUBLIC DOMAIN IN WEST AND BORE EARMARKS OF SERIOUS, RESPONSIBLE EFFORT.

6. GIVEN HEIGHTENED WESTERN INTEREST IN HUMAN RIGHTS, FORTHCOMING BELGRADE FOLLOW-UP CONFERENCE, AND INTEREST BAPTISTS IN WEST ARE LIKELY TO TAKE IN THEIR ROMANIAN CORELIGIONISTS, CASE OF TON ET AL HAS POTENTIAL OF PRODUCING CONSIDERABLE INDIGNATION IN WEST. CONGEN HAS LEARNED FROM RFE THAT REVEREND MICHAEL BOURDEAUX (SP), ENGLISHMAN WHO IS PRINCIPAL OF KESTON COLLEGE, KENT, ENGLAND, ORGANIZATION WHICH HAS SPECIALIZED IN EXPOSING RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION IN USSR, IS INTERESTED IN TON CASE. BOURDEAUX IS TO TRAVEL TO U.S. IN TWO DAYS WHERE HE PLANS TO RAISE THIS CASE WITH AMERICAN RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS.
BETTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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TAGS: SHUM, PINT, RO, CSCE, RFE
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